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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 28 | Min 18 | Humidity 62% Partly Cloudy Sensex 77,580 | Nifty 23,532 | Gold 74,072 | Silver 88,893 | Dollar 84.43 | Euro 89.26 | GBP 106.95

BLACK SPOTS

Garbage burning in Mittaganahalli continues unabated, vacant lot turns pestilent in Richards Town

PAGE 3

WRONG SELECTION

HC bench order reveals all is not well with selection of child welfare committees' members

PAGE 5

Just over 2 lakh trees counted so far in tree census that is now likely to be done by March 2025; so far maximum trees tagged in Bengaluru West

EVERY TREE COUNTS

Tenders of 3 zones cancelled due to slow pace of work

Garima Prasher
garima.prasher
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Running more than four years late, Bengaluru's tree census is now likely to be completed only by March 2025.

So far, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has enumerated 2,64,154 trees in Bengaluru under the ongoing census.

The maximum trees have been tagged in Bengaluru West (94,895), followed by RR Nagar (86,853), Bengaluru East (48,681), Bengaluru South (17,551), Mahadevapura (7,710), Bommanahalli (3,834), Dasarahalli (2,519), and Yelahanka (2,111).

However, the process was

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> "The contractor had planned to move to Mahadevapura, Dasarahalli, and Yelahanka after counting trees in Bengaluru East, South, and Bommanahalli. However, that would have delayed the process — BLG Swamy, dy conservator of forests

Let's talk about it

Policewomen share how menstrual cups have helped them during long shifts

Atiya Firdos
c-syeda.atiya@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

In the demanding and high-pressure world of law enforcement, women police officers often face unique challenges, one of the most persistent being menstrual hygiene during long, uninterrupted shifts. With limited access to clean washrooms and insufficient breaks to change sanitary products, many struggle with discomfort and potential health risks. However, a growing number of women police personnel are turning to menstrual cups as a promising alternative.

This is why a recent initiative led by the Parihar (an initiative by Bangalore City Police) in collaboration with Saahas Foundation, a workshop of discussions around menstrual hygiene, best practices, and the advantages of using menstrual cups received much positive response. Numerous women officers shared their interest in and experience with menstrual cups.

Comfort on the job

Many women police personnel shared how menstrual cups have become an increasingly popular choice, especially for those working long hours in the field.

A policewoman explained, "A friend introduced me to menstrual cups a few months ago, and I found them to be

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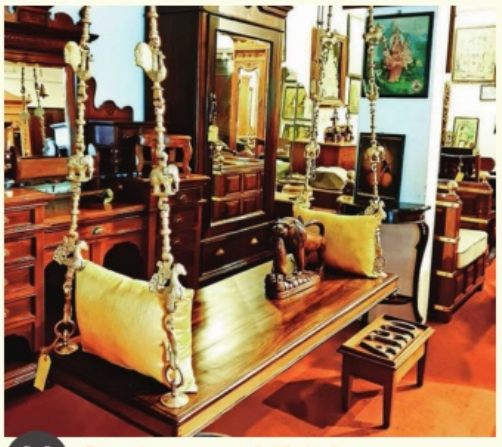
3 THINGS TO DO



01 Antique exhibition

Antique Home Decor is conducting an Exhibition to revive and promote the forgotten art of wicker cane weaving. The products on display include rare sofa sets in Teak and Rosewood, coffee tables, side stands, cabinets, chairs and a lot more of varieties of furniture with inlay of Wicker cane weaving. It includes a rare collection of antique shelves, desks, bar consoles, and dining sets with special appliques of Mother of Pearl and brass, along with other vintage and antique home decor artefacts. **Where: Antique Home Decor, Whitefield; When: November 5- 20**

02 Mega magic show

The World famous magician PC Sorcar (Porush) is in town, casting a spell-binding performance through his magic show, Indrajal. Leaving behind a legacy of magic the SORCAR family is one of the greatest magicians in the world. PC Sorcar (Porush) is the youngest magician in the family. A painter and drummer he has already created a unique way of working on some of the greatest tricks his grandfather has been known for. The torch of magic continues to burn with full brightness in the Sorcar family. **Where: Town hall; When: November 18, 4 and 7 pm**

03 Kanan wits

For his fourth comedy hour, Kanan Gill examines the many ways of being, the very idea of being and the ultimately unsatisfactory nature of experience. With jokes. yes. After his last special "Is This It?" (It was), Kanan now returns with "What is this?" Kanan's previous specials include: Yours Sincerely (Netflix), Keep It Real (Amazon Prime Video) and "Is This It?" (Youtube). **Where: Good Shepherd Auditorium; When: January 24, 8 pm**

Tech summit preparation

Ongoing preparation for the 27th edition of Bengaluru Tech Summit 2024 at Palace Grounds on Sunday. Three-day Tech Summit will be inaugurated on Tuesday

VTU's 3.5-year degree for 'extraordinary achievers'

This opens job opportunities sooner for 'extraordinary' performers but might put undue pressure on students

Sridhar Vivan
sridhar.vivan
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @sridharvMirror

While most general degree students wrap up their courses in three years, engineering students typically commit to an additional year for their four-year BE program (and yes, MBBS students have an even longer grind!). But here's some exciting news: Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU) is introducing a game-changing fast-track programme for engineering students, allowing them to earn their degree in just 3.5 years. Sounds incredible? Well, there's a twist! This opportunity isn't for everyone—it's exclusively for 'extraordinary' students who demonstrate exceptional academic performance. Only those who stand out as the best of the best will qualify for this elite programme.

An official said, "This 'fast-track' programme allows students who meet the eligibility criteria to complete their degrees in a reduced timeframe, provided they maintain exceptional academic performance. Typically, it takes four years to earn a B.Tech degree without carrying over any subjects. However, this new initiative opens doors for exceptional students to graduate in 3.5 years, enabling them to enter the workforce sooner. The programme is designed to benefit career-oriented students by allowing them to graduate faster and secure employment opportunities immediately. Graduates will receive their degree completion certificates from their respective colleges and VTU upon finishing the programme." VTU currently oversees 208 engineering colleges with over 300,000 students enrolled.

Engineering is about holistic learning, and rushing through it could compromise skill development (File photo)

Eligibility criteria

Students who joined VTU-affiliated institutions in 2022 and are currently in their 4th semester are eligible to apply for the "extraordinary" programme. They must have achieved a CGPA of 9 or above in both the 2nd and 3rd semesters. If they fail to maintain this performance level, their enrollment in the programme will be cancelled. On the other hand, faculty members have been instructed to conduct regular classes and expedite the completion of the syllabus. Practical exams and internal assessments must be conducted immediately after the completion of each semester. Dr S Vidyashankar, vice-chancellor, VTU said, "Our aim is to support talented students by enabling them to graduate faster through the fast-track 'extraordinary' degree programme. Colleges are encouraged to identify eligible students and enroll them in this scheme."

Programme structure

A VTU official explained, "Students must submit a grade report to VTU to confirm their eligibility for the programme. During the 7th semester, they are required to complete both their internship and technical seminar. To streamline the process, subjects typically covered in the 8th semester will be preemptively taught and assessed in the 7th semester itself.

The total credits for the programme remain capped at 160, ensuring no additional workload for students. Detailed guidelines have been shared with college principals, who are tasked with explaining the programme to students and overseeing its effective implementation. Additionally, the project work for both Phase 1 and Phase 2 will be merged into a single evaluation process, simplifying the academic requirements. This innovative initiative from VTU sets a new standard in education, empowering exceptional students to accelerate their engineering journey and embark on their professional careers ahead of schedule."

The idea has stirred a debate. A sixth-semester student said, "The fast-track degree is a revolutionary opportunity for exceptional students to enter the workforce sooner while maintaining academic rigour. It rewards talent, streamlines education, and equips students to meet industry demands more efficiently." However, a college professor who didn't want to be named added, "While the idea of a fast-track degree is promising, it might put undue pressure on students to maintain exceptional grades and compress an already demanding curriculum. Engineering education is about holistic learning, and rushing through it could compromise the depth of knowledge and skill development."

THE Desolation of smog

Poisonous air is driving residents of areas near Mittaganahalli dump yard away; those living on rent plan to shift out

| Garima Prasher
garima.prasher@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

For residents living around the Mittaganahalli dump yard, the sky appears to have fallen of late. The area with many residential apartment complexes and housing societies was covered in smog for a larger part of the weekend. Despite repeated pleas, there was no change in the scene with smoke engulfing the skies as late as 1 am on Saturday.

Some of the residents decided to capture the deteriorated air quality on their devices last Monday. They were shocked to see that the air quality index (AQI) value was more than 100 with high levels of particulate matter (PM) 2.5 and 10.

"I drive a green car that can record the air quality index of the area. We were near Shobha Dream Garden apartment complex in Bellahalli and our AQI meter had crossed the 100-mark. We decided to test the values and drove in the area for some time. The AQI kept hovering around 110. When we moved away from the area and reached a brewery on Hennur-Bagalur Main Road, it gradually dropped to 45. This is not the first time I noticed high AQI in the area," said a resident.

Baffled by this information, when some checked the AccuWeather site, it confirmed an AQI of above 100.

"Bengaluru's current AQI is much less than 100. However, we are subjected to polluted air, which is confirmed by a private site that measures air quality. We are unable to withstand the foul smell. The quarry is overflowing and now garbage is being dumped outside," said another resident of the area.

Residents thinking of moving away, deferring shifting in

Residents told BM that over the last few weeks, the air quality in the area is comparable to that of New Delhi. While some are planning to move out, others who had plans to move into houses in the area have deferred their plans.

"We were planning to shift to one of the apartment complexes in the area in December this year. However, we have now decided to delay the plan. Our apartment is ready and we visit the place occasionally. The air quality appears bad and we are not willing to subject our children to this poisonous air. At least our current place does not have a landfill on fire," said Smita (not her real name), a current resident of Horamavu.

Some residents living on rent are also contemplating to leave soon.

"This area has become uninhabitable. Staying here any longer will mean compromising our health. We are living on rent and thus have the flexibility to move away. We plan to relocate as soon as we get a suitable place," said another resident.

BangaloreMirror
HOLD YOUR BREATH
Residents of areas near Mittaganahalli dump yard suffering from lung, throat, eye ailments due to garbage being set ablaze last week
Garima Prasher
garima.prasher@timesofindia.com

BM reported on Nov 8 about the various health issues residents of the area were facing due to garbage burning

... Vacant lot spews venom in Richards Town

Residents of Davis Road in Richards Town have been struggling with a large vacant plot that has turned into a dumping ground for over 19 years. Despite complaints to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and the Health Department, no action has been taken to resolve the issue.

The open plot, located near Holy Cross Convent and Alphonse School, is filled with household waste, construction debris, e-waste, and animal remains. Shopkeepers and restaurants from nearby Tannery Road are accused of dumping waste there. The stench, mosquitoes and rodents have made life unbearable.

A resident of Golden Crescent Apartments, which is next to the plot, Pramila Banerjee, shared her frustration. "I moved here in 2005 and have seen the plot deteriorate over the years. People come here to burn garbage and the fires sometimes get so big we have to call the police. Despite complaints, nothing has been done," she said.

Reeta from the Holy Cross Convent, which houses 60 girls and women, described the daily challenges they face. "Some of the women are handicapped and use wheelchairs. They have to pass this stinking, garbage-filled plot every day. The pavement is blocked with waste, forcing us to walk on the road. This is a serious health and safety hazard. We have sent many petitions to the authorities, but the situation is worse than ever," she said.

Residents of Sun Beam Apartments, located opposite the plot, have also suffered. "Several residents here got dengue, and one of them was in the ICU. The plot is a breeding ground for mosquitoes and other pests," a resident said.

Nagarjuna Elysees Apartments residents pointed out the plot is misused as a public toilet. "People also urinate and defecate here. The authorities have ignored our pleas for years. We need this plot to be secured immediately," a resident said. — **Iffath Fathima**

Blocked drains and flooded homes: JP Nagar's nightmare

JP Nagar 7th Phase residents face waterlogging from clogged drains and incomplete work, urging urgent action before next rains worsen situation

Iffath Fathima
iffath.fathima@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Water floods homes during rains, forcing occupants to pump it out

JP Nagar 7th Phase residents are struggling with drain overflow during rains, flooding their homes and sumps. The issue remains unresolved despite local MLA Krishnappa's visit to assess the situation. Around 50 houses in the area are severely impacted, with residents pointing to unscientific planning by authorities as the root cause.

The issue started years ago but has worsened recently. Residents say initial efforts to address the problem were abandoned midway, leaving shoulder drains incomplete and cross-drains blocked.

"Now, water flows on just one side of the drain. Small gaps between fallen slabs let some water through, but that's not enough. Trash from open fields and untreated sewage from nearby houses also block the drains. Water enters our homes whenever it rains, and we have to pump it out and refill our sumps," said a resident.

The resident mentioned that the issue has been ongoing since 2000. "There are multiple issues. One of the apartments releases untreated sewage into the stormwater drain. The other is that since our area is at a lower level, rainwater and sewage flow downhill into our homes. The BBMP (Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike) started work to fix this by interconnecting the shoulder drains, but it's been left incomplete. During last month's rains, the flooding was severe. Adding to the woes, stagnant water in the drains has become a breeding ground for mosquitoes," said the resident.

Joshua Sinto from the Aam Aadmi Party expressed solidarity with the residents. "Drainage problems should not sap our patience. It's high time the authorities address this issue before people lose complete faith in the system. Cleanliness is not a luxury but a necessity, and we will continue to knock on every door for a healthier tomorrow."

> **"Since our area is at lower level, rainwater & sewage flow downhill into our homes. BBMP started work to fix this, but it's left incomplete** – Resident

Residents say MLA Krishnappa directed the BBMP to address the problem and even sanctioned the work. However, after initial progress, the work stopped without explanation. The residents are demanding immediate action to clear blockages, ensure water flows on both sides of the drain, and address sewage inflow. They fear more flooding if the issues are not resolved before the next spell of heavy rain.

With growing frustration, the community vows to keep pressing authorities until a permanent solution is implemented.

K'taka's reservoirs full to brim after strong monsoon

State sees rise in water levels, with major reservoirs reaching maximum capacity after rainfall

Garima Prasher
garima.prasher@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Karnataka's water scarcity has witnessed a significant turnaround after the monsoon season, with good rainfall in the catchment areas of the state's major reservoirs. As a result, 11 of the 14 dams have reached more than 90% of their storage capacities.

Out of the four Cauvery basin reservoirs (Krishna Raja Sagara (KRS), Harangi, Hemavati, and Kabini), Kabini is currently at 93.59% of its total storage, while KRS has been at full capacity for the past 60 days. Hemavati is close to reaching the 90% mark. The total capacity of the Cauvery Basin reservoirs is 114.57 TMC, with current storage at 106.66 TMC. Last year, the combined storage of all four reservoirs was 60.73 TMC. Experts say KRS has reached its full capacity for the first time in the last two years and it is a significant boost to the state's as well as Bengaluru's water security. "Water up to the brim in reservoirs during November or December is good news for the upcoming summer season as we may not have to face water scarcity. This is an outcome of above-average rainfall during October. Good rainfall only during the Southwest monsoon could not have led to this situation. It is the Northeast monsoon that has brought up water levels even during November," said Dr GS Srinivas Reddy, former director of Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Center.

The current storage of the three major hydel reservoirs, Linganamakki, Supa, and Varathi, has crossed the 300TMC mark, against their total capacity of 328.18TMC. All six reservoirs in Krishna Basin are also filled up to the brim. While the gross capacity of Krishna Basin reservoirs is 422.45 TMC, the current storage is 413.28 TMC, much higher than last year's storage of 316.90 TMC.

While reservoirs are holding a good amount of water, experts underline the need to have a good water management strategy to ensure water availability during summer. "Since the majority of the dams have water almost up to their brims, one of the strategies should be to fill drinking water sources. Currently, many tanks in north Karnataka and some parts of south Karnataka are being used as drinking water sources. Every month roughly 3 TMC of Cauvery water is used for drinking purposes. If managed well, there will be no water problem in the summer of 2025," added Dr Reddy.

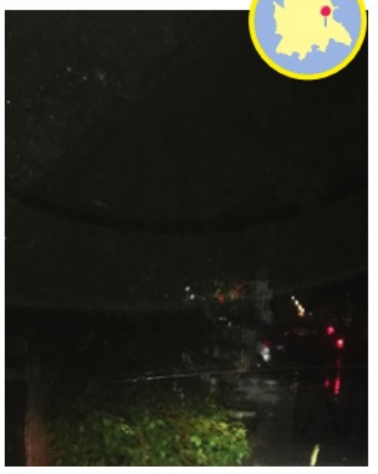
Experts also suggest awareness among farmers about the judicious use of water for irrigation to avoid scarcity over the coming months.

whatsapp MIRROR
9591233247
Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Pothole peril
Kodigehalli

Shanthivana Main Road, connecting Kodigehalli and Sanjeevini Nagar, is full of potholes. Despite eight requests, BBMP has taken no action.

Lights out
Primrose Road


Primrose Road, near Tandoor Hotel, has been without a streetlight for months. Despite multiple complaints from residents, the issue remains unresolved.

Congestion woes
Avenue Road

Avenue Road, linking Majestic, City Market, and Cubbonpet, faces constant traffic and pedestrian crowding, causing heavy congestion and tough commutes for locals.

HC ups compensation to kin of deceased BSNL engineer

The Karnataka High Court has granted an increased compensation of Rs 79,56,875 with 6% interest to the family of a deceased BSNL Engineer. Justices KS Mudagal and Vijayakumar A Patil, forming a division bench, dismissed the accident tribunal's earlier decision that assigned 20% contributory negligence to the deceased Engineer.

The incident took place on November 27, 2013, when Narayan U Hegde was riding his motorcycle near Maharani College Junction Under-Pass, Palace Road. A private bus collided with his motorcycle at the junction. Hegde was taken to St Martha's Hospital where he died the same day.

Hegde's mother, wife and daughter approached the tribunal requesting Rs 1.6 crore compensation. The tribunal awarded Rs 46,08,000 with 6% annual interest on July 17, 2015, whilst attributing 20% accident responsibility to the deceased. Subsequently, both parties (the claimants and the insurance company) approached the high court. The claimants maintained that the bus driver bore complete responsibility for the accident.

The insurance company contested

Family of man, who died in crash with bus, seeks Rs 1.6 crore, but tribunal awards Rs 46.08 lakh, putting 20% cost on victim's negligence

this, suggesting that the motorcycle's position under the bus's rear wheel indicated the victim's negligence. The bus driver's statement supported this interpretation. The division bench examined the Motor Vehicle Inspector's report, which indicated that the motorcycle was travelling on the road's right edge when the bus moved from the left to the extreme right, making contact with the motorcycle.

"The tribunal failed to consider the aforesaid evidence judiciously and committed an error in imputing 20% negligence to the victim. Moreover, the driver of the bus is not an independent witness as he will be interested in seeing that he is exonerated in the criminal case. The Tribunal lost sight of the said fact also," the bench said. The court noted that the deceased was aged 52 when the accident occurred and earned Rs 86,983 as gross salary in his position as Sub Divisional Engineer in Broadband Network Circle, BSNL, Bengaluru.

Child welfare panel under scrutiny

HC Dharwad Bench orders status quo on committee member selections after petition raised concerns over process

| Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The High Court Dharwad Bench has ordered the Women and Child Welfare Department to maintain the status quo on the selection of members for the District Child Welfare Committee. The order follows a petition filed by one of the applicants, raising concerns about the State Level Selection Committee's process for interviewing and selecting candidates for the posts of chairman and members of the district child welfare committees.

"The selection, if any, made by respondent No 2 (The President, Directorate of Child Protection and Member Secretary of State Level Selection Committee) would be subject to the outcome of this petition. Status quo shall be maintained as of today at 5.19 pm," read the High Court order issued on November 13.

HC Raghavendra, a child rights activist trainer from Ramasagara of Kampli taluk in Bellary district filed a writ appeal in the High Court Dharwad Bench seeking a direction to the President, Directorate of Child Protection and Member Secretary of State Level Selection Committee to consider his candidature for the post of a member to the district child welfare committee.

According to documents available with Bangalore Mirror, the High Court has directed the president, Directorate of Child Protection and Member Secretary of State Level Selection Committee on February 17 and June 21, 2024, to consider the application of HC Raghavendra for the interview but the authorities did not inform the petitioner to attend the interview.

It may be recalled that HC Raghavendra was felicitated with a State award for the year 2018 in recognition of his service to the welfare of children and preventing child marriages. However, the State Level Selection Committee did not inform Raghavendra about the date of the interview or the reason why his application was rejected.

"I urge state govt to cancel all selection of candidates for posts of members of district child welfare committee and take measures to select right candidate –Y Mariswamy, Child Rights

Bangalore Mirror published a story titled, "Positions filled after 6 years, activists seek full selection" on September 12, highlighting how chairpersons and members of Child Welfare Committees and Juvenile Justice Board for the districts of Bengaluru Urban, Bidar, Davangere, Raichur, Tumkur, and Yadgir were yet to be selected.

Coming down heavily on the apathy of Women and Child Development authorities in selecting the wrong persons to the State Level Selection Committees, Y Mariswamy, former in-charge chairperson of Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights has demanded the state government to cancel the State Level Selection Committee and issue a notification inviting applications for the formation of new State Level Selection Committee. "I think that the State Level Selection Committee has failed to identify the right candidates for the posts of chairman and members of district child welfare committees. The State Level Selection Committee has also failed to conduct interviews for the selection of chairman and members for child welfare committees of many districts," said Mariswamy.

Expressing concern over the selection of wrong candidates as members and chairman of district child welfare committees, Mariswamy said, "I urge the state government to cancel all the selection of candidates for the posts of chairman and members of district child welfare committee and take measures to select the right candidates to serve the children."

Teen held for idol damage

A 17-year-old boy was arrested by the JB Nagar police for desecrating the Bhuvaneshwari statue on Saturday, outside the temple on the BEML main road.

According to the police, the incident took place on Friday when the youth walked into the temple and as he was frustrated for failing thrice in his 10 exams, he ventured his ire on the idol by desecrating it.

The police were alerted when the temple priest saw the statue desecrated and alerted the temple committee about the same. The JB Nagar police reached the spot and controlled the situation before it could escalate. The youth is booked under the JJ (Juvenile Justice) Act and further investigation is underway.

Ola driver booked for misconduct

An Ola driver allegedly misbehaved with a woman following a minor disagreement on Thursday night. The victim, Priyanka Arora, had booked an Ola cab online to return home from Indiranagar. She noticed that the cab which arrived to pick her up was different from the one shown on the app. When she questioned this, the driver explained that the original cab had gone for repairs, and the vehicle assigned was a replacement. Reassured by the matching OTP, she boarded the cab.

However, the situation escalated when she asked the driver to turn on the air conditioning. He not only refused but allegedly misbehaved, threatening to drop her off mid-journey. Despite the tension, she safely reached home. When she informed the driver that she needed to charge her phone before paying, he allegedly tried to force his way into her home, shouting and verbally abusing her.

She immediately raised a complaint online before approaching the JB Nagar police station. The police have registered an FIR against the driver and further investigations are underway.

18-year-old dies by suicide

An 18-year-old girl was found dead by suicide at her residence on Sunday in Kurubarahalli. The deceased identified as Bhimavva was originally from Kyatanal, near Yadgir, and was living with her parents, Bhagamma and Mallanna, in Bengaluru. She was a construction worker.

As per the police, the reason behind the suicide remains unknown. The Mahalakshmi Layout police visited the scene and have initiated an investigation.

"A case has been registered based on a complaint filed by the family, and the body has been sent for post-mortem. Further inquiries are ongoing," a police official stated.

Split opinion over green cess

Instead of imposing cess on citizens, department should consider diverting plantation funds towards Western Ghats conservation activities opine experts

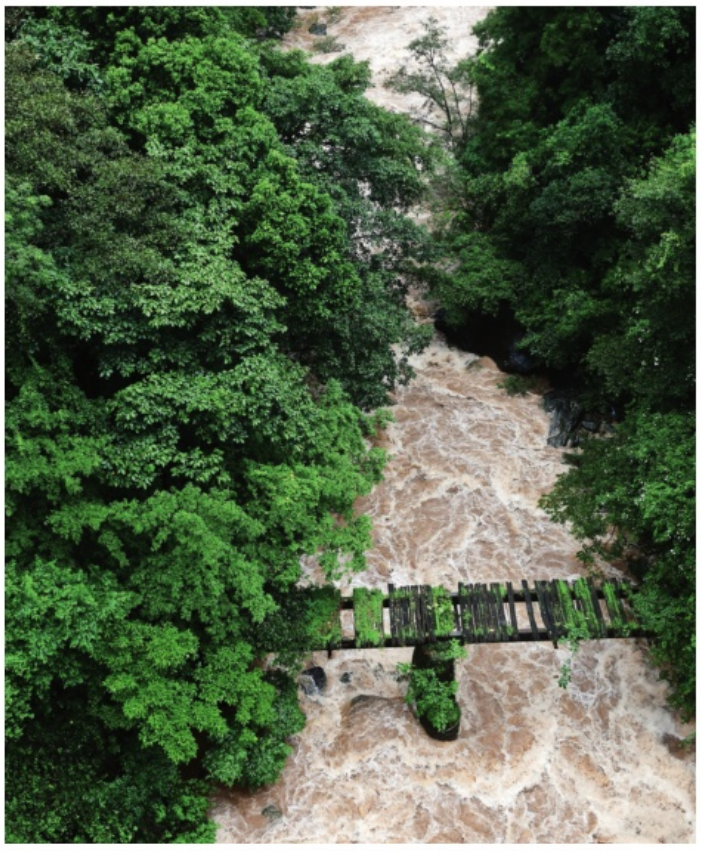
Garima Prasher
garima.prasher
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Experts are divided on their reactions to the Karnataka Forest Minister's announcement about the state government's plan to impose a monthly 'green cess' in cities that receive water from rivers originating in the Western Ghats. Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre had on Wednesday said that he had instructed the additional chief secretary to submit a proposal on a monthly cess of Rs 2 or Rs 3. As per the Minister, the funds would support the conservation of Western Ghats and its rivers, apart from activities to mitigate human-wildlife conflicts in the region. While some ecologists and conservationists have welcomed the move, others raise the issue of fund misappropriation.

"It is indeed a good move. However, cess should be imposed on all services provided by an ecosystem: provisioning services that include tangible benefits such as timber and other forest produce, regulating services such as carbon sequestration, climate moderation, groundwater recharge, etc., and cultural services including recreation and aesthetics. The Deccan Peninsula has water and food security due to the rivers of Western Ghats. We need to collect this cess from other states that are receiving water from these rivers, too," said a city-based conservationist.

Dr TV Ramachandra, Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science (IISc) also lauded the step and said that it is the right step towards monetary valuation of ecosystem services, which is key to sustainable development.



Department suggests that monthly cess of Rs 2 or Rs 3 would support the conservation of Western Ghats and its rivers

"We have conducted a study of ecosystem services in Uttar Kannada district of Western Ghats and found that just the tangible benefit such as timber, fuel, water, etc. amounts to about Rs 10,800 crores per year. Similarly, cultural benefits from Western Ghats amount to about Rs 2 lakh to Rs 3 lakh per hectare per year," said Dr Ramachandra.

Ecologists say the need of the hour is natural capital accounting.

"Our current system for calculating GDP is distorted. We should consider having 'Green GDP' and account for the degradation cost of the ecosystem," added Dr Ramachandra. However, some conservationists say the department has sufficient funds to take up conservation activities in the Western Ghats region, given it puts a full stop to unwarranted undertakings, including plantation in reserve forests. This fund should be diverted under legal procedure and money should be spent on core activities.

"The forest department has been spending crores on plantation activities. Plantation is happening even in reserve forests of districts with more than 33% of forest cover such as Uttara Kannada and Shivamogga. Plantation can happen at encroachment eviction sites, patches prone to encroachment, along the roads, near schools and community places, etc. Thus, instead of imposing cess on citizens, the department should consider diverting 'plantation' funds towards conservation activities," said a city-based conservationist.

> **"Western Ghat will revive itself from degradation. Only intervention required is eviction from encroached forest patches** – Activist

According to a wildlife activist, this will only lead to misappropriation of the fund. "Western Ghat has evolved over millions of years, and it will revive itself from degradation. The only intervention required is eviction from encroached forest patches. As long as the region is not damaged further, it will resuscitate on its own," said the activist.

Anti-spit campaign

Residents of Domlur Layout recently held yet another drive with a focus on creating awareness about public spitting and its impact on our cleanliness, health and hygiene. While they have been doing regular drives over the past two years to address the usual concerns of litter, black spots, dumped waste and banned plastic, they started conducting drives focused on public spitting as they noticed that the incidence has increased.

"With more e-commerce stations coming up and delivery staff waiting everywhere, there is a reported increase of spitting, and orange paan stains are more visible now than before," said Odette Katrak, an active Domlur resident who also drives the national StopIndiaSpitting movement. Srinivasachar Mulugund a resident and active volunteer of the drive said, "I have been bothered by this issue, people spit alongside my wall daily. Groups collect to relax under the tree but leave the place filthy with spit. I keep telling them not to spit but, they reply as if it is their right to spit. So every day I'm forced to clean up with disinfectant spray because it is stinking and unhygienic. These signs will help me because now I can point to them and there is some legitimacy to my request."

Odette who encourages more signs as part of this national campaign added that many places are now realising that they do not need to tolerate the habit. "Residents and vendors who are bothered by public spitting outside their homes welcomed these, because it is now being made clear that public spitting is no longer acceptable," she said.

Residents have been talking to habitual pan chewers for a few days and noted that change can be observed. Other areas wishing to do a similar drive can connect with the citizen initiative Beautiful Bharat, or mail stopindiaspitting@gmail.com. **— BMB**

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

CM Siddaramaiah interacting with children from various schools at the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the eve of Children's Day at Vidhana Soudha

Different tunes

Last week, two ministers from the Siddaramaiah government were singing completely different tunes on the proposed "Green Cess." Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre floated the idea of imposing an additional cess on water bills in urban and town areas, with the funds dedicated to conserving the Western Ghats. However, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar quickly shot it down, claiming there's no such proposal on the table. Khandre first introduced the idea on Wednesday and doubled down on it the next day, speaking to the media at Vidhana Soudha. He suggested that a Rs 2 to 3 cess could be added to monthly water charges. But Shivakumar wasn't having it, declaring, "There's no proposal for a Green Cess on the water bill."

Support for men

During a recent interaction with students on Children's Day at Vidhana Soudha, Deputy CM DK Shivakumar responded to a question regarding extending the Power Scheme to men. He stated, "We will discuss and make a decision about expanding the Power Scheme for men based on age criteria." The question was raised by Charan, a student from Neelasandra's Municipal Primary School, during a student dialogue session. Charan asked why the state government's free bus service, part of its five guarantees, was only available for women and not for male students. In response, Shivakumar explained, "We are providing Rs 2,000 to your mother, free bus travel, and 10 kg of rice. These benefits are being offered to women. We will discuss and take steps to extend similar benefits to men."

Credit war

As bypolls wrapped up, political heavyweights turned up the heat, sparking a fiery exchange of words and credit-claims drawn from the past. Former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda recently stirred the pot by asserting that he was responsible for making Siddaramaiah the Deputy CM Siddaramaiah didn't hold back, firing back with, "Is he not ashamed to say that? Without my and Jalappa's support, Gowda wouldn't have become CM in 1994." Taking the stage at a rally in Channapatna, Deve Gowda shot back at Congress, reminding the crowd that he appointed Siddaramaiah as Finance Minister, and warning, "DK Shivakumar's ambitions will be his undoing."

Dance moves

One of CM Siddaramaiah's hidden talents? Dancing! Over the years, he's proven he's more than willing to show off his moves—from lighthearted dance sessions in his village with friends and family to making headlines with his energetic steps during the Ballari padayatra alongside Congress leaders. Most recently, during a tribal promotion event in Mysuru, Siddaramaiah couldn't resist the beat. Captivated by the tribal dancers, he enthusiastically jumped in, adding his own flair and drawing cheers from the crowd. It's clear that when it comes to rhythm, the CM is always ready to join the celebration.

Controversial comments

Controversial remarks by Zameer Ahmed Khan recently ignited a political storm. Khan attempted to brush it off, claiming it was just friendly banter between him and HD Kumaraswamy, where he called HDK "Kaaliya" while being called "Kulla" (dwarf) in return. But JD(S) leaders weren't amused. Former Malavalli MLA K Annadani shared that, in his experience, Kumaraswamy has never engaged in such name-calling or joked about any fellow leaders. Arkalgud MLA A Manju added his voice, publicly disapproving of Khan's comments and dismissing them as inappropriate.

Why opted out?

During the recent Channapatna bypolls, Chamundeshwari MLA GT Deve Gowda was conspicuously absent, fuelling rumours that he was distancing himself from the JD(S) and possibly upset with the party. Previously, Gowda had considered switching to Congress, only to be persuaded by a last-minute visit from HD Deve Gowda and HD Kumaraswamy, who urged him to stay with JD(S). Yet tensions have simmered since the Dasara inauguration, where GT Deve Gowda openly praised Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, sparking an alleged "cold war" with the HDK family. When asked by journalists about his absence from the campaign, GT Deve Gowda explained, "The JD(S) released a list of 40 star campaigners, and my name wasn't on it, so I opted out." **— Sridhar Vivan**

HEALTH TIP: Practising mindful portion control and avoiding sugary drinks as well as high-calorie foods helps manage diabetes

Having smaller meals that are rich in fibre help stabilise blood sugar levels

Physician, heal thyself

Is it ever OK for scientists to experiment on themselves?

A virologist named Beata Halassy recently made headlines after publishing a report of successfully treating her own breast cancer by self-administering an experimental treatment.

Having previously undergone a mastectomy and chemotherapy, Halassy informed her doctors that she wanted to treat her tumour by injecting it with viruses known to attack cancerous cells. This sort of approach is called oncolytic virotherapy (OVT). OVT has not yet been approved for the treatment of breast cancer, but it is being studied as an experimental approach.

Halassy is a success story of self-experimentation in medicine. She joins other examples, like Barry Marshall, who won the 2005 Noble prize in medicine following his work ingesting the Helicobacter bacterium to prove its role in gastritis and peptic ulcers. This work is estimated to have saved millions of lives.

Yet, self-experimentation is often viewed with suspicion. Concerns about self-experimentation are growing because it is no longer solely the domain of professional scientists.

The availability of biotechnologies, and the prevalence of open-source science has led to the development of "bio-hacking" communities engaging in various forms of self-experimentation. Does self-experimentation raise ethical concerns? To answer this question, it is useful to return to first principles of research ethics.

Autonomy

The informed consent process is a crucial protection in medical research. Researchers have to employ rigorous methods to ensure individuals make a voluntary choice to participate in trials, and they understand the risks and benefits of the intervention.

Clearly, some self-experimenters can make informed choices to self-administer unproven interventions. Halassy's report makes clear that she gave informed consent. And her expertise in virology enabled her to develop a scientific rationale for her approach. But, there can be unknown side-effects with experimental treatments, so a second set of eyes is desirable. Also, not all self-experimenters will be as well informed. There is a concern that unregulated forms of self-experimentation may not involve this important safeguard when members of the public experiment on themselves.

> **It can be ethical for scientists to experiment on themselves. Such studies should at least sometimes be allowed and should be published**

Reasonable risk

Informed consent is not the only important safeguard in research ethics. It is often claimed that even consenting adults should only be exposed to "reasonable risks" in research.

Ethicists often debate how to understand reasonable risk. But it is widely agreed that reasonable risks must be minimised to those that are necessary.

However, it is more complex to work out what counts as reasonable, when someone has a serious illness and is undertaking experimental treatment that might (or might not) benefit them. Where an individual stands to benefit from receiving an experimental intervention, "proportionality" partly relates to how the experimental intervention compares to other therapies that doctors might use as the "standard of care".

This is a relevant question in Halassy's case. Notably, Halassy had already undergone a mastectomy and chemotherapy over the course of her treatment.

What's more, the measles virus and the vesicular stomatitis virus she used in her experimental OVT had a good safety record.

In contrast, where the participant does not stand to benefit from receiving the intervention, it is sometimes claimed that it can only be proportionate to expose the participant to minimal risk. Others have argued that greater risks could sometimes be proportionate if the benefits of the research are sufficient.

One problem here is that self-experimentation often involves only one participant. That might mean that it is hard to generalise (or that it might even be misleading). But as Barry Marshall's case shows, self-experimentation involving just one person can sometimes generate incredibly useful findings.

However, we also have to consider potential harms.

Harm to others

In Hollywood, the self-experiments of rogue scientists often go devastatingly wrong – think Jeff Goldblum's portrayal of an eccentric scientist in The Fly. Sci-fi stories like these are often wildly implausible. But this should not blind us to the possibility of more credible harmful effects.

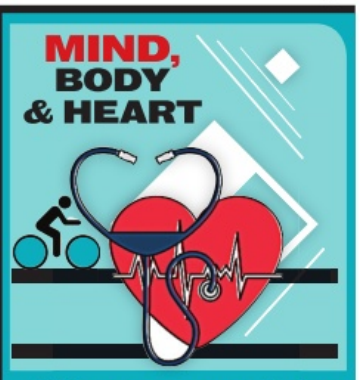
One concern is that other patients might be tempted to follow in Halassy's footsteps and attempt an unconventional therapy, perhaps before using other standard therapies. To forestall this, it is crucial to be clear about the limited generalisability of her case, and to ensure that patients understand the tried and tested benefits of existing therapies.

A different concern is that adverse publicity from very risky experiments might make it more difficult to conduct important research. At least eight early self-experimenters died from their research, including the 29-year-old doctor William Stark who died from scurvy in the 18th century after severely restricting his diet. There are other concerns to consider in self-experimentation more broadly. Self-experimenters can now easily access powerful technologies like Crispr-Cas9 gene-editing tools.

In 2017, a biohacker named Josiah Zayner injected himself with a DIY Crispr–Cas9 gene therapy aiming to enhance muscle growth. Crispr-Cas9 has the power to benefit society, but it could also cause harm if misused through misunderstanding or malice. The worry about self-experimentation here is not just about the direct harm that misuse might cause. Cases of misuse might also undermine societal acceptance of the regulated efforts to safely develop this important technology.

It can be ethical for scientists to experiment on themselves. Such studies should at least sometimes be permitted, and certainly should be published so that others can learn from them.

(By Jonathan Pugh, Dominic Wilkinson, Julian Savulescu, University of Oxford, The Conversation)



All you need to know about...

Air pollution effect

Heart patients vulnerable
Patients with heart disease, specifically those with heart failure, are especially vulnerable to the impacts of air pollution and poor air quality and can take steps to protect themselves, a new study has said.

Cardiac inflammation
Results from the Intermountain Health study, presented at the American Heart Association's 2024 Scientific Sessions international conference in Chicago, found that two inflammatory markers — CCL27 (C-C motif chemokine ligand 27) and IL-18 (interleukin 18) — were elevated in heart failure patients who were exposed to poor air quality, but did not change in those without heart disease.
While previous research has shown that people with some chronic health conditions, like heart failure, coronary disease, asthma, and COPD, struggle during spikes in air pollution, the new study demonstrates that cardiac inflammation levels specifically rise in people with heart disease during periods of poor air quality.

Spikes noted
"These biomarkers rose in response to air pollution in people who already had heart disease, but not in patients who were heart disease free," said Benjamin Horne, principal investigator of the study. Researchers looked at blood tests for 115 proteins that are signs of increased inflammation in the body. These spikes were caused by either wildfire smoke in the summer, or during a winter inversion, where air pollution is trapped when warm air holds pollution closer to the ground.
Researchers found that two inflammatory markers — CCL27 and IL-18 — were elevated in heart failure patients, but did not change in those without heart disease, indicating that such air pollution events put more strain on the bodies of patients who already have heart problems. **–IANS**

Tenders for 3 zones to be refloated soon

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

delayed after BBMP decided to cancel tenders of three zones due to slow progress made by the contractor.

"We are canceling three out of the six tenders that were awarded to one of the two contractors conducting the census on behalf of BBMP.

The contractor was enumerating trees in three zones of BBMP and had planned to move to Mahadevapura, Dasarahalli, and Yelahanka after counting trees in Bengaluru East, South, and Bommanahalli zones.

However, that would have delayed the process and thus we decided to cancel the contract," said BLG Swamy, deputy conservator of forests, BBMP.

According to the officials, the tenders for the given three zones will be floated by the end of the coming week.

"With this delay, Bengaluru's tree census is now expected to be completed only by March 2025," added Swamy.

The census process

BBMP started the census process in February this year with a fund allocation of a little over Rs 3.74 crore. For the project, the civic agency divided the city into eight zones of approximately 1,000 sq km each to enumerate an estimated 20.8 lakh trees in the city, covering an area of 9,761.6 sq km.

The census was given a deadline of August 2024, which was then moved to November. Notably, the tree census was started after a long delay following the Karnataka High Court's order in October 2019. The process was kick-started only in October 2023.

Unique ID

Under the process, every tree in the city is expected to get a unique ID, a combination of ward name and tree number. Other parameters such as girth, species name, GPS location, and photographs of each tree would be recorded under the process. Once completed, the information will be made available in the public domain.

As per the project plan, the total cost for the project would be estimated after enumerating over 20 lakh trees under its first leg.

Once the exact amount is calculated, funds will be sanctioned immediately for the census to be completed.

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3. Generator 250 KVA to 750 KVA
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personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I Mantori Banjare W/o Mintu Mishra R/o Ward No-1 Vill-Dhanadhi PS-Sursand Post-Majhaura Dhanadhi Dist: Sitamarhi Bihar-843331 have changed my name to Varsha Mishra for all purposes.

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BM Finance Fundas

Missed the EMI of your loan by 1 day? It can cost you more than you think

People sometimes forget to maintain the required balance in their bank account on the day an EMI is to be deducted. They realise it only after getting a message that the EMI could not be deducted because of low balance. They will then have to run around to make the payment and may even have to pay a penalty to the bank. Yet, they would have damaged their credit history, which is created after years of disciplined repayment.

Even a minor drop is bad

Any default of EMI means you have to pay the penal charges to the bank. "Late or missed payments can lead to fees, penalties from the lender, and a negative impact on your credit score," says Adhil Shetty, CEO of Bankbazaar.com. Moreover, if your credit score is around a critical level, your next loan will cost you more as you may need to pay a higher interest rate.

A bigger delay can have lasting damage on credit score

The adverse impact of the most recent default is substantial. "While each credit information company has its own proprietary algorithm to calculate an individual's credit score, the most important elements of the score composition are centredaround the loan payment behaviour of the individual. Missing EMI or credit card payments by one day — and credit institutions report this — may lower the individual's CIBIL score," says Bhushan Padkil, SVP & Head of Direct to Consumer Business, TransUnion CIBIL.

The more recent the default, the bigger the impact it will have on your credit score. "The amount, frequency and the recency of default will have a bearing on the score," says Ramkumar Gunasekaran, Director and Head of Sales, CRIF High Mark.

If you do not do damage control quickly, the delay can have a more significant effect. "An individual's CIBIL score is calculated based on the last 36 months of credit history, as reported by credit institutions. Irrespective of the type of loan availed, any missed EMI or credit card payment can impact your CIBIL score," says Padkil.

CIBIL score predictor on paisabazaar.com states that if one EMI payment is delayed by 30 days at this stage by Rajeev, the CIBIL Transunion Score will fall further by 65 points to 707. The total fall in credit score within 30 days could be 92 points.

Can borrower pay the missed EMI the same day?

"When you miss an EMI payment, the bank usually sends an alert via email and SMS. Bank representatives may also call to remind you of the missed payment and provide a special link or payment option to help you quickly settle the overdue EMI, minimising any potential impact on your credit score," explains Shetty. While preparing to make the payment for a missed EMI, you must ensure that you clear all the dues.

How long does it take to recover from one-day default?

The time it takes for the credit score to recover will depend on the extent of damage to the score. The higher the damage, the longer it will take to bounce back.

— Naveen Kumar, ET Online

Initiative starts discussions on comfortable sanitary options for women

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

much more practical compared to sanitary napkins, particularly for those of us working long shifts with limited access to clean washrooms." The menstrual cup's ability to eliminate the worry of stains and provide greater comfort during long hours on duty has resonated with many officers.

Another 112 command centre staff told BM that she was initially scared to use it, but when she did, she found it comfortable. "I don't have to worry about changing or stains anymore," she said.

Fewer health risks

A counsellor from the Parihar Foundation, who has been working closely with police personnel on menstrual hygiene, emphasised that long shifts, especially those that span night hours, make it difficult for women to change pads regularly due to inadequate facilities.

While menstrual cups have gained popularity worldwide, they remain relatively underutilised in India, where social and cultural taboos surrounding menstruation still hinder open conversations.

Studies show that menstrual cups are not only more environmentally sustainable but also pose fewer risks of infection compared to traditional products like pads and tampons. Despite this, about 80% of Indian women still rely on pads or cloth, with menstrual cups remaining a lesser-known option.

Not a mainstream choice

"Menstrual cups haven't gained much popularity in India mainly due to lack of awareness and cultural taboos around menstruation. Many women are unsure about their safety, hygiene, and proper use, largely because menstrual health isn't openly discussed, and sex education is limited.

However, for women in demanding professions like law enforcement, menstrual cups can be a game-changer. They're convenient, long-lasting, and perfect for managing long shifts, irregular schedules, and limited restroom access," explained a gynaecologist from a private hospital.

Climate change will disrupt rain pattern

Report reveals changes in precipitation in Indian Himalayas will shift monsoon trends; temperature will rise by 1.5 degree C by 2057

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In July this year, the Kapila river in Nanjangud near Mysuru swelled up as 70,000 cusecs of water was released from the Kabini dam

The South West and North East Monsoon bring lots of rains to Karnataka. Any change in the monsoon pattern can severely affect the ecological balance. However, as per the latest climate change predictions (2021-2040) by Azim Premji University, things do not look that good. The new climate data set for India released by the university offers critical insights into how climate change will impact the country over the next two decades.

The report states that the northeast monsoon shows a rather grim picture where a major part of the country will experience a decrease in precipitation in the Indian Himalayas. On the other hand, the western and south western states like Gujarat, Rajasthan, Karnataka and parts of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, including parts of Ladakh, will experience an increase in precipitation of 20 to 60%, with the highest being in Gujarat (50 to 60%). On the other hand, the southwest monsoon will see a shift from east to west with the normally drier western states experiencing higher precipitation.

The report states that from 1986-2015, India's annual mean, maximum and minimum temperatures have shown substantial warming trends during the pre-monsoon season (March-April-May). The frequency of heat extremes in India has increased between 1950-2015, and warming has occurred over the past three decades at an accelerated rate.

Changes in the monsoonal rainfall pattern will significantly impact the country's agrarian economy and food security. Droughts and floods are also projected to increase, as per the climate model data, which will have a deleterious impact on the economy, health, and food supply of the people. There is also a noticeable increase in the frequency of post-monsoon cyclonic storms, causing severe consequences on the coastal communities.

Temperature rise

The report states that the average annual maximum temperature is projected to rise by 1.5 degrees Celsius by 2057. In a more extreme "Fossil-Fueled Development" scenario, this increase will occur earlier, by 2047. Similarly, India's average summer maximum temperature will increase by 1.5 degrees C by 2043 under the 'Middle of the Road' scenario and by 2041 in the case of 'Fossil-Fueled Development'.

"Under a low-emission scenario (SSP2-4.5), 196 districts across India are expected to see a summer maximum temperature increase of at least one degree C, with 70 districts experiencing a similar annual temperature rise. Leh is projected to record the highest change at 1.6 degrees Celsius for both summer and annual maximum temperatures. Additionally, 139 districts are likely to witness a winter minimum temperature increase of 1.5 degrees C or more, while 611 districts will face a rise of at least one degree Celsius in winter minimum temperatures," the report states.

In contrast, under a high-emission scenario (SSP5-8.5), the temperature shifts are more pronounced. "Approximately 249 districts are expected to experience an annual maximum temperature increase of one degree Celsius or more, with 16 districts, predominantly in the Himalayan states, seeing an increase of 1.5 degrees Celsius or more, the highest being 1.8 degrees Celsius in Leh. Summer maximum temperatures will rise by at least one degree Celsius in 517 districts, with 17 districts observing an increase of 1.5 degrees Celsius or more, again with Leh at 1.7 degrees Celsius. Winter minimum temperatures are projected to increase by 1.5 degrees Celsius or more in 162 districts, with Anjaw district in Arunachal Pradesh seeing the highest increase of 2.2 degrees Celsius. Both scenarios highlight critical health risks in 24-25 districts located in coastal states and the eastern Himalayas..." it states.

19% of rising dengue cases due to climate change: Study

Amid record year for dengue infections globally, a new study has found that climate change is responsible for 19 per cent of rising dengue burden.

Climate change has the potential to spark an additional 40-60 per cent spike by 2050 — and by as much as 150-200 per cdent in some areas — according to a new study presented at the annual meeting of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (ASTMH) in the US.

India has also seen a surge in dengue cases this year. The latest findings from researchers at Stanford and Harvard Universities offer the most definitive evidence to date that climate change is a big factor driving a global surge in the mosquito-borne disease.

Countries in the Americas alone have recorded almost 12 million cases in 2024 compared to 4.6 million in 2023, and locally acquired infections have been reported in California and Florida. The study also carries warnings of even sharper increases to come.

"We looked at data on dengue incidence and climate variation across 21 countries in Asia and the Americas and found that there is a clear and direct relationship between rising temperatures and rising infections," said Erin Mordecai, an infectious disease ecologist at Stanford's Woods Institute for the Environment. It's evidence that climate change already has become a significant threat to human health and, for dengue in particular, our data suggests the impact could get much worse, Mordecai added.

While some dengue infections produce only mild symptoms, others cause excruciating joint pain (earning dengue the nickname "breakbone fever"), and severe cases can lead to bleeding complications and shock. There are no drugs to treat the disease and while there are two licensed dengue vaccines available, some dengue experts have pointed to challenges with both that could limit widespread adoption.

The study finds that amid dengue's growing threat, moderating global warming by reducing emissions would also moderate climate impacts on dengue infections. The analysis shows that with sharp cuts in emissions, areas now on track to experience a 60 per cent increase would instead see about a 40 per cent rise in dengue infections between now and 2050.

However, with global climate models predicting that temperatures will continue to increase even with large reductions in emissions, the researchers found that 17 of the 21 countries studied still would see climate-driven increases in dengue even under the most optimistic scenarios for carbon cuts.

Mordecai said dengue-endemic areas that are just entering the 20 to 29 degree C sweet-spot for virus transmission — parts of Peru, Mexico, Bolivia and Brazil — could face the biggest future risks, with infections over the next few decades rising 150 to 200%. **-IANS**

A dengue ward filled with patients in Delhi (file photo)

Only ineligible BPL cards will be weeded out: CM

Cards not being cancelled, no impact on eligible cardholders, clarifies Siddaramaiah

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday clarified that only ineligible Below Poverty Line (BPL) cardholders will be weeded out, and there will be no impact on eligible cardholders.

The CM said that he had given strict instructions to the food and civil supplies department that those eligible should not be left out. "BPL cards are not being cancelled...we have said that we will not give BPL cards to ineligible. Should we give BPL cards to those paying income tax or government servants? Such cases will be shifted to APL (Above Poverty Line) cards from BPL cards. Still, no decision has been made, but there is thinking in this direction," Siddaramaiah said.

Speaking to reporters here, he said the proposal still has not come before the Cabinet from the food and civil supplies department.

"Those eligible should be given BPL cards and those ineligible have to be removed. If eligible, they will certainly be given. I have given strict instructions to the food and civil supplies department that those eligible should not be left out..." he added.

To a question on BJP challenging him to prove his allegation that Rs 50 crore bribe was offered by the party to 50 Congress MLAs to topple the Congress government, Siddaramaiah said, "they (BJP) have tried, but failed."

The CM also expressed confidence about Congress winning bypolls held for three Assembly segments -- Channapatna, Sandur and Shiggaon -- on November 13. Counting of votes will be held on November 23. Reacting to a question on Minister B Z Zameer Ahmed Khan recently referring to Union Minister and JD(S) leader H D Kumaraswamy as "Kaalia" and its implication on bypoll held in Channapatna, he said, "He should not have said such things, whatever relationship or affection they might have shared in the past. He (Khan) said things to which he (Kumaraswamy) said things.... what both have said is not right." **-PTI**

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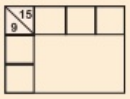
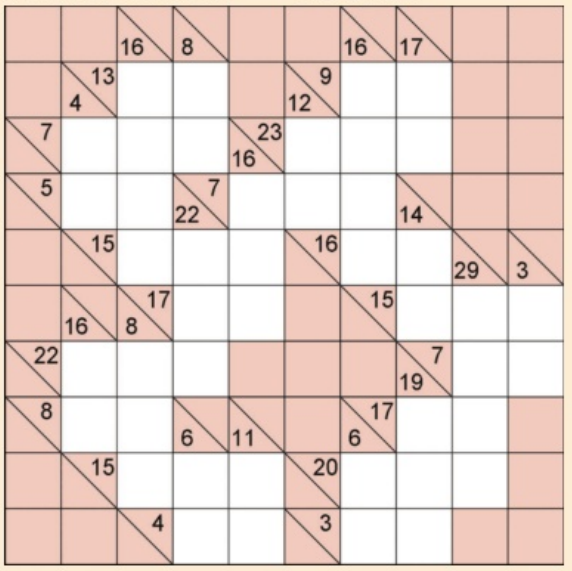
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas



for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



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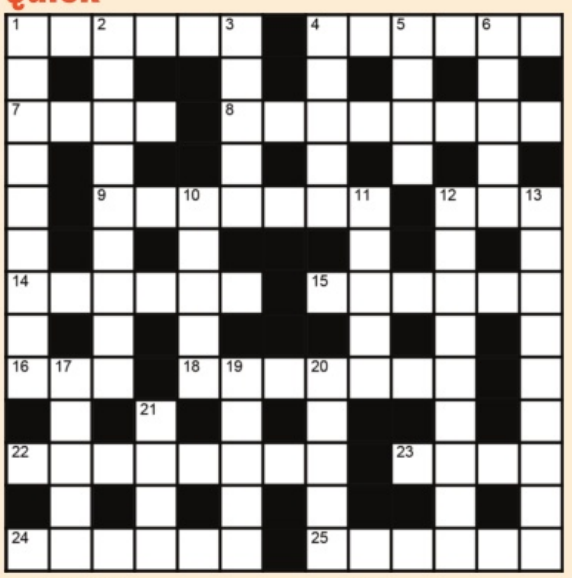


ACROSS

1 Scolded or reproved (6)
4 Lively (6)
7 Meeting point (4)
8 New York City (3,5)
9 Fielding position on the cricket field? (4,3)
12 Purse or a satchel (3)
14 Formal discussion (6)
15 Dashboard (6)
16 Definite article (3)
18 Gulp down (7)
22 Tourist destination famous for white water rafting (8)
23 Pakistani language (4)
24 Analyses a sentence (6)
25 Squabble or quarrel (6)

DOWN

1 Religious treaty (9)
2 Unable to be erased (9)
3 Remove concealed listening devices from a room etc.? (5)
4 To discuss or debate (5)
5 Sort or kind (4)
6 English football club Aston _____ (5)
10 Annotations (5)
11 Cherished ambition (5)
12 In reverse (9)
13 Thankfulness (9)
17 Dog-like carnivore (5)
19 Forests (5)
20 Parasite (5)
21 Imitates or copies (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: A EQUALS H

AP ANK FRSC ANSG SPNMRPW HAP NMH FG MPNWDRZ YAF ANK RFH NWWPW HF DH HAP JFMP MPGDRPW NMH FG KUDBBDRZ NRW KUDJJDRZ.

Linemaro

Are you an angel? Your texture mapping is divine!

Mindchow

Too much agreement kills a chat

Joke of the day

My therapist told me the way to achieve inner peace is to finish what I start. So far I've finished two bags of chips and a chocolate cake. I feel better already

Loop

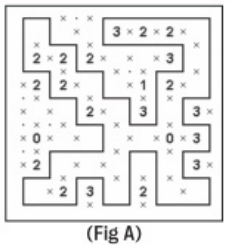
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

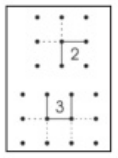
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

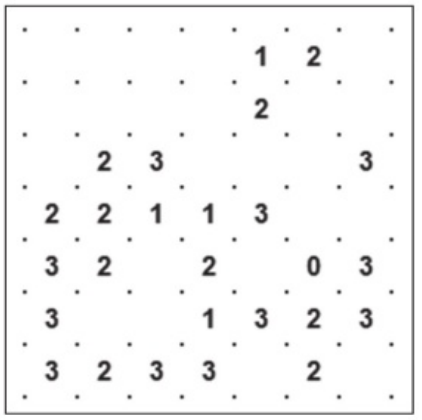
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



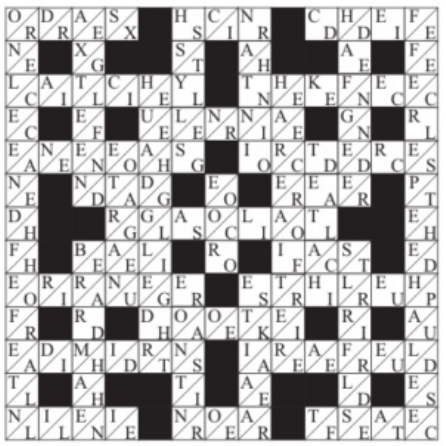
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



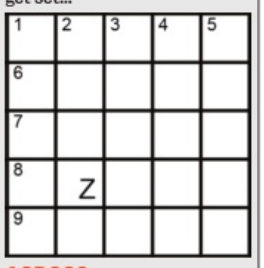
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Sabah; 6 An opt; 7 Taint; 8 In Zee (1-4); 9 Cadre

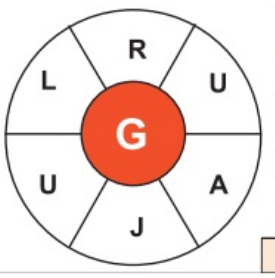
DOWN

1 Pater; 2 A A biz; 3 Actin; 4 Nates; 5 He nod

Mensapuzzle

Which number replaces the question mark and completes the puzzle?

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

01 Average; 02 Good; 03 Outstanding

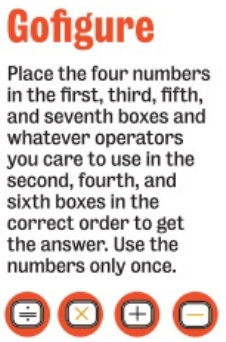
SudokuChallenge

8								7
		4	9	1	3	5		
6		3				2		1
	8		7		5		9	
				8				
	6		3		4		1	
3		6				1		9
		5	1	4	8	6		
2								5

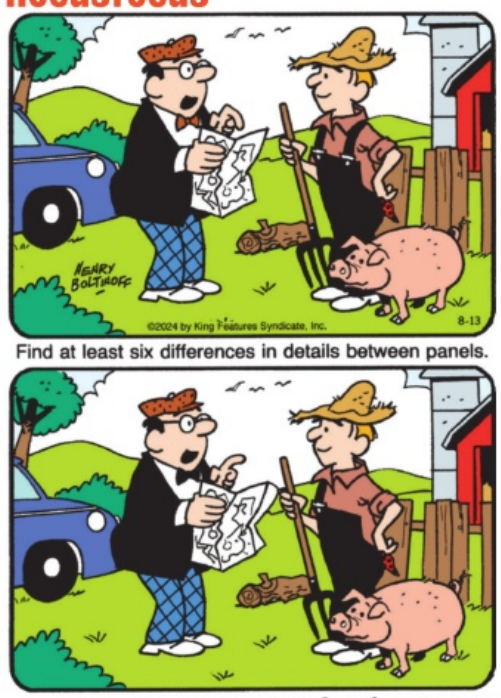
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Pig's leg is moved. 2. Shoulder strap is missing. 3. Tie is different. 4. Finger is moved. 5. Tines on garden fork are different. 6. Map is larger.

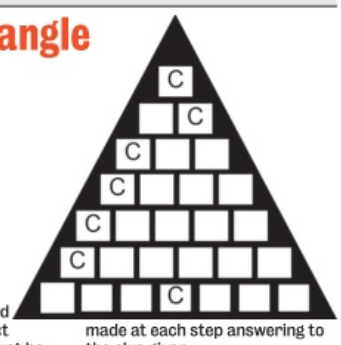
Riddler

Hidden below you will find three uncommon titles to five classic novels. Can you decipher them?

1. Vanished with the Tempest
2. Enmity of the Globes
3. Dinky Maidens

Alpha triangle

1 Vitamin type
2 Off. Comm.
3 Portable bed
4 Pigeon coop
5 Celestial body
6 Arrive at (4,2)
7 Final result

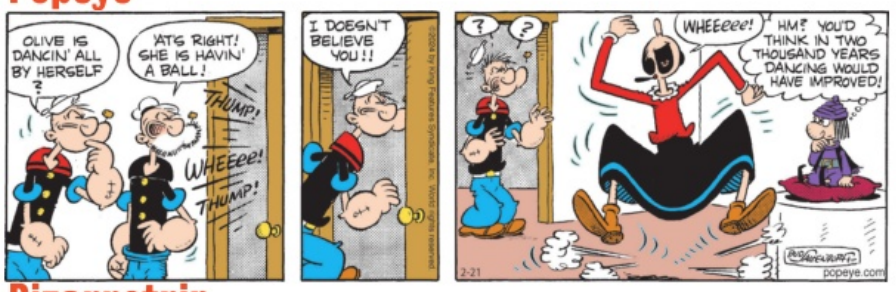


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye



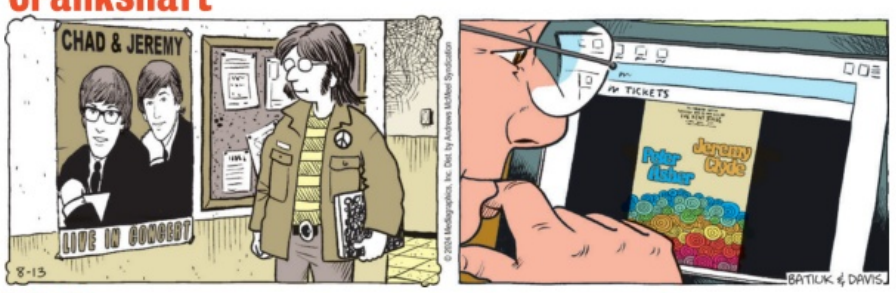
Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

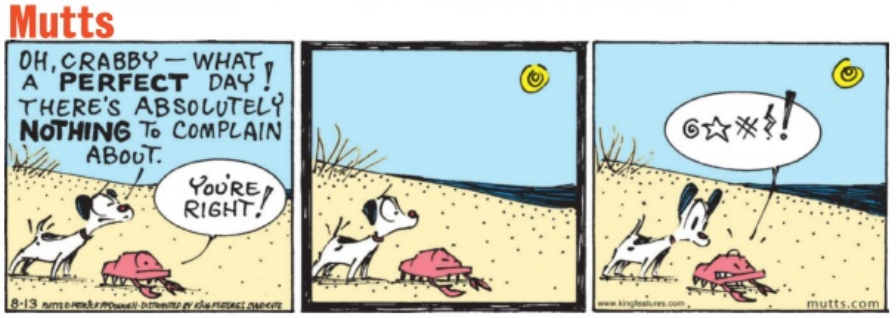
Hart of the city

SURPRISE! I'M NOT GETTING MY HAIR DONE-YOU ARE! HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
YOU REALLY GOT ME. I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN MY BEST FRIEND WOULDN'T DOUBLE BOOK ON MY BIRTHDAY.
YOU CAN GET WHATEVER YOU WANT!
MAYBE NOT WHATEVER.
WHATEVER YOU WANT!!
HEART OF THE CITY © 2024 ANDREWS MCMEEL

Crankshaft



Mutts



WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may struggle with negative thoughts and feel a bit down. Impatience and arrogance could hold you back from making difficult decisions. You may need the blessings of your elders to advance in your work. Avoid investing in stagnant assets. Couples should avoid discussing past negative experiences.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today is favourable for your work, and you may perform well. Your boss might assign you new responsibilities, possibly with a promotion. Disputes with your partner may settle down, and you might lend money to build your assets. Your child's health may improve, and you may consider investments for their future.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may feel blessed by the moon. Love is likely in the air for your personal life, and singles may find a suitable match. You may excel in your professional life, with support from friends and colleagues. Investments in gems and jewellery could bring positive returns in the near future. Be mindful of the health of your elders.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
The blessings of auspicious planetary influences may bring you happiness and a sense of energy that boosts your reputation. You might spend time studying intellectual material.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today may start off a bit dull, but you may overcome negativity by the evening. New people might connect with you at work, and with their help, you could revamp your business plans. Be sure to carefully review documents before signing them.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, with blessings, you may overcome indecisiveness. Your child's health is improving, and colleagues will likely support you, leading to success in projects. You may receive incentives along with your salary. Those in fields like dairy, water projects, grains, homemaking, and culture may perform well.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you might be occupied with domestic matters and take an interest in artefacts, movies, or fashion, which could boost your creativity. You may spend on artefacts or household items, enhancing your social status. You'll likely be more polite with others and might plan a trip with family or friends.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
You may feel particularly happy today, with strong inner vitality boosting your confidence. A good night's sleep may leave you feeling relaxed. Avoid being careless in financial, professional, and academic decisions. You might enjoy some romantic moments with your spouse, but be mindful of self-respect issues to keep positive moments from turning negative.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Your tendency to overspend may impact your savings, so be cautious. Exercise restraint when expressing yourself at work and home. Avoid lending money, and delay important decisions related to real estate and other assets. Try not to shirk your responsibilities.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, with the support of your strong network, you may implement business plans and use wisdom to achieve profits. You may experience harmony at home, with good understanding between you and your spouse. Those in the metal and booking agent fields will likely do well.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you may feel passionate about your work. Avoid letting emotions cloud your decision-making, especially regarding business, job, and investments; it's wise to follow your intuition. Though there may be a heavy workload, blessings from elders could help you manage any difficulties.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
In the morning, you may feel peaceful and unhurried, which will positively affect your work style. Luck may help you complete postponed projects and meet targets. You'll likely display patience, contributing to harmony at home. However, take care of possible skin or stomach-related issues.

KIDZONE

W Tania, Bengaluru

S Tanmayi, Bengaluru

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Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

QUOTE UNCODE
He has only half learned the art of reading who has not added to it the more refined art of skipping and skimming.

RIDDLER
1. Gone with the Wind, 2. War of the Worlds &
3. Little Women

SOLVE IN 1M
(-1+(13))-14
(12)-14
-2

FAST FIVE

A	B	A	S	H
P	A	N	T	O
E	Z	I	N	E
T	I	T	A	N
R	A	C	E	D

STRIKE OUT

L	I	N	E		N	O	R		F	E	T	E		
L	A		I		E		L		S					
A	D	M	I	T	S		I	R	E	F	U	L		
R		D		H	O	O	K	E		I		U		
O	R	A	N	G	E		S	T	I	R	U	P		
	B	A	I		O		E	A	T			E		
		G	L	A	C	I	A	L				H		
N		A	D		E		E	A	R		T			
A	E	N	E	A	S		O	R	D	E	R	S		
E		E		E		I		G		L				
C	A	T	C	H	Y		T	H	E	N	C	E		
N		X		T		A		A		E				
O	D	E	S		S	I	R		C	H	E	F		

QUICK

C	H	I	D	E	D		A	C	T	I	V	E		
O		N		E		R		Y		I				
N	O	D	E		B	I	G	A	P	P	L	E		
C		E		U		E		G		L				
K	E	M	P	H	O	L	E		U	R	D	U		
	Y		A		O		E		A		T			
T	H	E		S	W	A	L	L	O	W		I		
A		L		E		I		K				T		
D	E	B	A	T	E		F	A	S	C	I	A		
R		I		O		R		A		R				
O		L	O	N	G	L	E	G		B	A	G		
C		E		U		E		L				R		
P	A	R	S	E	S		H	A	S	S	L	E		

MENSA PUZZLE
39. Moving from left to right, add 6 to the first number to get the next one along, then 8, 10 and 12 to complete the sequence.

BULL'S EYE
augur, guru, JUGULAR

SUDOKU

8	5	1	4	2	6	9	3	7
7	2	4	9	1	3	5	6	8
6	9	3	8	5	7	2	4	1
1	8	2	7	6	5	3	9	4
5	6	7	3	9	4	8	1	2
4	3	9	2	8	1	7	5	6
9	7	5	1	4	8	6	2	3
3	4	6	5	7	2	1	8	9
2	1	8	6	3	9	4	7	5

ALPHA TRIANGLE
C, OC, Cot, Cote, Comet, Come to, Outcome.

LOOP

GO FIGURE
Easy
9 - 9 - 6 + 7 = 1
Medium
2 x 9 + 5 + 5 = 28
Hard
2 - 5 + 4 x 5 = 5

KAKURO

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 # SNL next
Hollywood star Paul Mescal is set to host the upcoming episode of 'Saturday Night Live'

On fire

Trailer of Pushpa 2 has taken internet and fans by storm

The makers of 'Pushpa 2: The Rule' have finally unveiled the official trailer, and it has already taken the internet by storm. The trailer launch event took place in Patna earlier on Sunday, featuring a glimpse of Allu Arjun, Rashmika Mandanna, and Fahadh Faasil, offering fans a fresh experience.

In the trailer, Rashmika is seen portraying a powerful character as Pushparaj's wife, Srivalli. Meanwhile, Allu Arjun's character, Pushparaj, transforms into an obedient husband to Srivalli, showcasing their electrifying chemistry that has captivated fans worldwide. Fahadh Faasil's portrayal of SP Bhanwar Singh Shekhawat IPS once again brings a commanding and vibrant screen presence to the table.

Allu Arjun reportedly dedicated the trailer to audiences and fans globally as a token of gratitude for the immense love and appreciation the franchise has received. Notably, the iconic dialogue "Pushpa is fire" has been reimagined as "Pushpa is wildfire" in the trailer.

Pushpa 2: The Rule is set to release in theaters on December 5. Directed by Sukumar, the film features music by National Award-winning composer Devi Sri Prasad. The trailer also offers fans a glimpse of Sreeleela, who will perform a dance number in the movie. Expectations are sky-high as Allu Arjun recently won the Best Actor National Award for his performance in the first installment of the franchise. **–ETimes**

Nora, Honey heat up the screen

Nora Fatehi and Yo Yo Honey Singh have teamed up for the music video titled "Payal."

On Sunday, the makers released the teaser of the song on social media, captioning it: "It's time for the next BIG THING. THE OFFICIAL MUSIC VIDEO OF #Payal by @yoyohoneysingh featuring @norafatehi & @paradox.here drops tomorrow." In the teaser, both Nora and Honey look promising, generating excitement for the release.

Earlier, Yo Yo Honey Singh shared a behind-the-scenes reel, revealing that they filmed the music video in bone-chilling -3 degrees Celsius. He praised Nora for her dedication, calling her "legendary" and "super hard-working". He said, "While other dancers, even those from Europe, have refused to perform in this freezing cold, Nora was still eager to shoot. I have big respect for her."

"Payal" marks Nora's first collaboration with Honey Singh. In addition to this, Nora will also feature in an upcoming music video with global sensation Jason Derulo. **–IANS**

On daddy duty

Speaking at a recent event, Ranveer Singh opened up about his journey into parenthood, describing it as an indescribable source of immense happiness.

A video making rounds on social media captures an overjoyed Singh sharing his experience as a new father. In the clip, he could be heard saying, "I have been on daddy duty for a long time now. I am ready to let loose with you all. That infinite happiness I'm experiencing right now. I wish I had the words to express what it's like, but, there are no words, in any language, that can describe this happiness."

The '83' actor also spoke about his wife and actress Deepika Padukone. He said, "When you feel sadness and share it with someone, it lessens. And when you experience happiness and share it, it doubles. It's like magic."

Ranveer and Deepika are known for their iconic collaborations in films like "Ram-Leela", "Bajirao Mastani", and "83". The couple married in a private ceremony at Lake Como, Italy, in 2018 and welcomed their first child, a baby girl, in September. They shared happy news on Instagram, posting a sweet message that read, "Welcome Baby Girl! 8.9.2024."

Earlier this month, the couple unveiled the first photo of their daughter, along with her name: Dua Padukone Singh. **–IANS**

I poured everything I could into it: Pamela

Pamela Anderson has shared her deep connection with 'The Last Showgirl', a drama she said represents an opportunity she's been waiting for her entire life.

The film, directed by Gia Coppola, marks a significant departure for Anderson, who is best known for her roles in 'Baywatch' and her iconic Playboy career. During a conversation at 'Contenders Los Angeles' event, the actress described the project as the first script she's ever read that felt truly meaningful, as per Deadline. "It was such a relief to ... be able to do a real film," Anderson said, reflecting on her experience working on the project.

"I mean, this is the first script I ever read that was a good one. No one was giving me scripts like this. ... So I just poured everything I could into it because I thought, 'What if this is the only film I ever get to do?'," she said as per Deadline.

'The Last Showgirl' tells the story of Shelley, a veteran Las Vegas performer played by Anderson, who faces an existential crisis after her long-running show is abruptly cancelled.

The film, written by Kate Gersten, explores the harsh realities faced by showgirls and the often-overlooked labour behind the world of entertainment. Coppola, the film's director, describes it as an exploration of "how our culture just discards so effortlessly," as per Deadline.

For Anderson, the role has been transformative. "I feel like I can breathe now," she said. "I needed to do this for my soul. I wanted to know what I was made of [and] I'm still looking because I hope this is just the tip of the iceberg, and I feel like I've just begun." **–ANI**

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Directors' support

The team of Naa Ninna Bidalaare is excited about the support it received from well-known Kannada movie directors. They expressed gratitude to directors Chetan Kumar aka Bharjari Chetan Kumar and Tharun Sudhir for their support to the movie that is billed as a suspense thriller.

Congratulating the team, Tharun Sudhir, in a video message, said he wanted the movie to become a huge success at the box office. "The title of the movie is similar to Ananth Nag and Lakshmi-starred Naa Ninna Bidalaare that was released more than 25 years ago. I appreciate Ambali Bharathi, the female lead in the latest movie, for her acting skills," said Sudhir. Chetan Kumar, who launched the trailer of the movie, appreciated the cast and crew. "The action scenes of Ambali Bharathi are superb. She can establish herself as an action heroine in Sandalwood. The action scenes are thrilling," he said.

Bharathi Bali has bankrolled the movie under the Kamala Uma Bharathi banner while Naveen GS has helmed the movie that is scheduled to arrive in theaters on November 29. Stunt master Different Danny has composed thrilling action scenes.

Shooting for sequel

The shooting of Dasavarenya Sri Vijayadasaru Part 2 began at Sri Karanji Anjaneyaswamy Temple, Basavanagudi on Tuesday. Vidhwan Sri Satyadhyanaacharya Katti sounded the clapboard for the muhurat scene while Tejaswini Ananth Kumar switched on the camera. Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD) member Naresh Kumar and classical singer Prasanna graced the event.

Trivikram Joshi, who has bankrolled the movie apart from playing the lead, said he was very happy with the success of Dasavarenya Sri Vijayadasaru. "I am bankrolling the movie with my parents' blessings. I am happy to announce this movie during the Aradhana of Vijayadasaru," said Joshi.

He said director Madhusudhan Havaldar motivated him to bankroll the movie on Haridasa. "We are thinking of producing around 10 movies on Haridasa. I considered Ananth Kumar as my teacher. I am happy to have Tejaswini Ananth Kumar as the guest for this muhurat function."